

MORAVIAN COLLEGE

ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS DEPARTMENT

Fall 2010 - Course Syllabus -- Economics 329 Labor Economics

Instructor: Dr. James West, Professor Economics and Business Department

Office: Comenius 215 Phone: 610.861.1381 email: westj@moravian.edu

Office Hours: MW F 10:30 11:45; M W 2:30-3:00 or by appointment

Class Time: MW 8:55-10:05 PPHAC Room 103

Textbook: *Contemporary Labor Economics*, by McConnell, Brue and MacPherson, 9th Edition, McGraw Hill-Irwin Publishers, 2010. ISBN 978-0-07-337595

Course Objectives: The primary objective is to provide a working knowledge of economic concepts, theories, models, institutions and historical perspectives of labor markets, with particular emphasis on the supply and demand of labor; employment and unemployment, and analysis of how the labor market participants adjust to short and long run changes in such things as demographics, technology, globalization, and government intervention as they impact labor opportunities and incentives. The institutional focus will be on developed economies especially the United States, but will also include analysis of developing and emerging economies with a focus on China in concert with the IN FOCUS initiative of Moravian College for 2010-2011.

Attendance and other class policies:

- Regular attendance is expected and as this is a seminar format informed participation is also expected. Bring your textbook and assignments to class.

- Exams may be re-scheduled only in event of emergency and make-up exams will be different than the on-time version.
- Policies of Academic Honesty and Classroom behavior: Students must adhere to the College Policy on Academic Honesty as detailed in the Student Handbook. Failure to do so will result in the consequences dictated by this policy. Classroom courtesy is expected. This includes being on time for class and not leaving early. Cell phones off. No eating in class. Do not engage in personal conversations during class and show respect for your fellow classmate's opinions.
- The course syllabus presents the schedule by which topics will be covered and exams given. Please read and complete assignments prior to class. Every attempt will be made to keep to the schedule, but I reserve the right to change the schedule and modify the coverage as necessary.
- Students with disabilities needing special accommodations should inform the Counseling Center in the Dean of Students Office and me during the first week of class. All efforts will be made to ensure reasonable accommodations of your needs.

Exams and Grading: There will be three semester exams that will constitute 25% each of the final grade, a course project/paper and class grade, based on participation, assignments and quizzes at 25%. The Final Exam is selectively cumulative and can be used to offset your lowest semester exam. Exams must be taken as scheduled. Project/Paper will entail the development of a 5 page executive report on a labor issue contrasting labor practices in China versus the United States. You will be graded on the paper quality, presentation (including PowerPoint) and ability to answer questions.

Week of:	Reading	Topic
August 30	1	Introduction
September 6	2	Labor Supply (no class Labor Day 9/6)
September 13	3	Population & Participation
September 20	4	Investing in Human Capital
September 27	Review (1-4)	Test 1 (9/29)
October 4	5, 6	Demand for Labor; Wage Determination
October 11	7, 8	Pay Schemes and Wage Structure
October 18	Review (1-8)	Test 2 (10/18)
October 25	9	Mobility and Migration
November 1	10, 11	Unions
November 8	12, 13	Government and Labor
November 15	Review (1-13)	Test 3 (11/17)
November 22	Topics –15	Job Search (no class Thanksgiving 11/24)
November 29	Topics 16, 17	Distribution and Productivity
December 6	Topics 18	Employment and Unemployment
December 15	Final Exam	1:30 pm –(Confirm date and time).